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111433Z Jul 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 ANKARA 004035

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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2005

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Central America Surrenders to Hurricane Dennis - Yeni Safak
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BRIEFING

Erdogan Returns from the US: Evaluating his trip to
participate in the Sun Valley Conference in Idaho, Prime
Minister Tayyip Erdogan told the press in Ankara yesterday
that he had discussed in the United States the issue of
fighting terrorism and Turkey's sensitivity on that
question. 'The next day, unfortunately, came the bombings
in London,' Erdogan said. He stressed that Turkey and the
United States are strategic allies that share universal
values. 'My visit was useful in strengthening the ties
between Turkey and the United States. I believe that the
talks I held there will help to advance our economic
relationship and create new opportunities for the promotion
of our country,' Erdogan emphasized.

Before returning home, Erdogan attended a meeting of the
World Affairs Council of Northern California and
Commonwealth Club of California late on Thursday, where he
warned against reflecting a sense of failure in Iraq, and
urged more cooperation to prevent such a development. 'We
should do all we can to preserve the political and
territorial integrity of Iraq, and to establish a democratic
system there,' Erdogan said. He also urged that Kirkuk be
recognized in the new constitution as belonging to all the
Iraqi people rather than to a single ethnic group. Erdogan
said that countries in the region should solve their
problems through their own internal dynamics. 'To bring
about such a change, the supportive attitude of
international actors, especially the US, has a crucial
importance,' Erdogan stressed. The Turkish prime minister
emphasized that global terrorism cannot be stopped without
making global peace a reality. 'The United States cannot
defeat terrorism alone. Neither can Russia, Britain, Spain

or Turkey,' he said. 'Common sense and solidarity is needed to fight terror. Terror is a consequence. Its causes -- poverty and illiteracy -- should be eliminated through common action,' Erdogan stated. He called on international actors to spend money to fight poverty rather than on armaments, and he urged the US to take the lead on this issue. 'Turkey is ready to give every kind of assistance to the United States in this struggle,' Erdogan said. Erdogan also called on the international community, including the US, to end the international isolation of Turkish Cypriots.

Ankara Suspends Process for Signing of EU Adaptation Protocol: The UK, as EU term president, has objected to Turkish plans to release a declaration in parallel with the signing of an adaptation protocol with the EU that would imply recognition of Cyprus by Ankara, "Radikal" reports. The Turkish declaration would make clear that the signing of the protocol would not amount to recognition of the Greek Cypriot state, and that Turkey would not open its ports and airports to the Greek Cypriots. Ankara has decided to suspend the process for the signing of the protocol in the face of the British warning, "Radikal" claims. Foreign Minister Gul will discuss the issue with the British Foreign Secretary Straw in Srebrenica, where the two ministers will

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participate on Monday in the tenth anniversary commemoration of the mass killings of Bosnian Muslims by Serb forces in July 1995. From Srebrenica, Gul will move on to London, where he will offer his condolences over the recent terrorist attacks in the British capital. He FM will also brief international investors on the situation in Turkey.

London Bombings: Dailies report over the weekend that the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigade, the organization behind the bomb attacks in Madrid and Istanbul, has claimed responsibility for last week's terrorist attacks in London as well. Reports say that the two previous bombings may provide clues about the perpetrators of the London attacks. The al-Masri Brigade had urged the Turkish government to pull troops out of Afghanistan and cut ties with Israel before it bombed two synagogues, a British-owned bank, and the British Consulate in Istanbul in November 2003.

Religious Affairs Directorate Denounces London Bombings: Professor Ali Bardakoglu, head of Religious Affairs Department (Diyanet) in Turkey, has denounced the terrorist bombings in London. 'Those who are behind these attacks should never forget that killing one human being means killing all of humanity. They should know that they will be punished by God,' Bardakoglu said in a written statement. Bardakoglu said that the attacks had caused deep sorrow in Turkey, other Islamic nations, and across the world. Bardakoglu expressed his wish for a more peaceful world.

OIC Plan to Propose Reforms for Islam: Monday's "Milliyet" reports that 16 experts from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) have drafted a plan for reforming Islam in an effort to cut social and cultural support for radical Islamic movements. Professor Ahmet Davutoglu, chief advisor to Prime Minister Erdogan on international relations, is among the experts involved in drafting the plan, which is to be implemented after obtaining approval by the OIC at a summit meeting in Mecca in December. The plan envisages national programs for fighting corruption, the rejection of terrorism and radical movements, the encouragement of inter-religious dialogue, and a fight against illiteracy, poverty, and child labor. The plan also calls for reforms in religious education.

Workshop on Women in the BMENA Region: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will jointly hold a workshop in Istanbul on Monday within the framework of the US Broad Middle East and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI), "HO-Tercuman" reported on Sunday. The two-day workshop aims to support women's entrepreneurship in the BMENAI region.

Survey: Erdogan Should Continue as PM: According to a public opinion survey conducted by the Pollmark Company for the ruling AK Party, 60 percent of respondents said that Erdogan should not run for the presidency in 2007, but rather continue as prime minister, "Yeni Safak" reports. Only 20 percent of respondents want to see Erdogan as president. If general elections were held today, the distribution of votes among parties would be as follows: AKP 43 percent, CHP 17, MHP 10.5, and DYP 10.1.

Fundamentalist Turks in Berlin: A report by the Department for the Protection of Constitution in Berlin said that 2,900 of a total of 3,600 fundamentalists living in the German capital are Turks, "Radikal" reported on Monday. In at least 10 out of 100 mosques in Berlin, sermons are being preached in support of violence, according to the report.

Bomb Blast in Tourist Town: A bomb exploded on Sunday in the coastal town of Cesme in western Turkey, leaving 22 people injured including a number of foreign tourists, Monday papers report. The Izmir Governor's Office said the blast was caused by a shrapnel bomb. Dailies voiced concern that the bombing may negatively effect Turkish tourism. The Kurdistan Liberation Hawks (TAK), a militant wing of the PKK, told the Europe-based pro-Kurdish "Mezopotamya News Agency" that it was behind the blast in Cesme, and warned that such attacks on tourist areas would continue.

Former Byzantine Church to Reopen as a Mosque: Istanbul's sixth-century Little Hagia Sophia Mosque, a former Byzantine church, is to reopen as a mosque later this year, despite objections from experts who warned that the mosque is among the world's most endangered monuments, "Radikal" reported on Sunday. Experts complained that the mosque's restoration had been rushed by the Istanbul Municipality in a bid to reopen it this year. "From the historical point of view, this is a scandal," one expert said. A university professor said that Turkey's Directorate of Foundations had turned down 5 million USD in financial assistance from the World Monuments Fund over concerns that the use of foreign funds might have meant that the building would be restored as a church or turned into a museum.

Landmine Kills Three Turkish Troops: Three Turkish troops were killed and 13 wounded when their military vehicle hit a landmine in Turkey's southeastern province of Hakkari on Saturday, papers reported yesterday. The landmine is believed to have been planted by the separatist PKK and detonated by remote control. An operation is underway to capture the terrorists.

Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq: A Turkish truck driver, Hasan Ongun (41), was killed in Iraq over the weekend in a rocket attack near Anakon Airport, Turkish papers report. Ongun was ferrying ammunition to US troops in the region.

Minister Sener Warns Over Foreign Capital: "Milliyet" reports in a front-page story that State Minister Abdulatif Sener, who has responsibility for economic issues, has warned about recent increases of foreign capital in Turkey. Sener warned that foreign capital is growing quickly in Turkey's electricity, banking and communication sectors. "They will take their profits back to their home countries," he said, "and we will never be able to close the current account deficit." Sener argued that the economic crisis in Argentina was triggered by an excessive inflow of foreign capital to the country.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Terrorism; Srebrenica

"Coincidental Fight Against Terrorism"
Ferai Tinc commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (7/11): "The Justice Ministers of the EU countries will convene in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss possible new measures to be taken against terrorism. Considering the statements made after the London bombings, life will become more difficult for Muslims in Europe. While a political strategy is necessary to counter terrorism, the global fight against terrorism became muddled after the US decided to launch a war in Iraq as a method for fighting terrorism. While the all-out war in Iraq was connected with the struggle against terrorism, people have now become convinced that terrorist actions will stop only if foreign troops are withdrawn from Iraq. Will Spain's withdrawal of its from Iraq following the attacks in Madrid make Spain safe from terrorism forever? Did Turkey's clear statements that it opposed the war save it from terrorist attacks? Terrorism and the US war in Iraq have become like twins attached at the hip. In addition to radical Islamist terror groups, the PKK and other terrorist organizations have also started feeding from this same vein. In order to fight against terrorism effectively, first the world should recognize the threat that it faces. Unfortunately, a proper diagnosis has yet to be made. It will not be possible to develop a strategy against terrorism until the US and EU stop ignoring other terrorist organizations and blame only radical Islamists."

"Isn't Terrorism the Price of the Imperialism?"
Erol Manisali observed in the intellectual "Cumhuriyet" (7/11): "It would be the biggest possible mistake to consider Al-Qaeda as solely responsible of the terror attacks in London. Terrorism and radical organizations like Al-Qaeda are the results of imperialism. In some cases, terrorism was created directly by imperialism, while in other cases it emerged as a reaction against it. Terrorism cannot be eliminated until the reasons for the terror are eliminated. Imperialism is the main reason for terrorism. Military operations, occupations, bombs, death, poverty, and hunger feed terrorism. Terrorism sometimes appears as a tool, and sometimes as a reaction. Terrorism is a tool for the imperialist countries, while countries that suffer under

imperialism use terror as a reaction. Ireland and Libya are living proof of this. Attacks by the US and some European countries after the end of the Cold War have become a new source for terrorism. It was inevitable that terrorism would spread following the attacks and occupations by the US and UK in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Increases in terror attacks are parallel with increases in imperialist attacks. If we want to eliminate terrorism, then, we have to prevent aggressive imperialism. Terrorism will continue to increase as long as the US and the EU continue occupying countries for their own interests. If they say that they cannot survive without imperialism, than they have to put up with terrorism."

"Mothers in Srebrenica Still Cry"

Semih Idiz wrote in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (7/11): "Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul will attend a very sad ceremony today in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ceremony commemorates the 10th anniversary of the massacre of Bosnian Muslim men and boys by Bosnian Serb forces in the town of Srebrenica. This massacre was a clear manifestation of pathological nationalism. Many Serb nationals still consider Karadzic, Mladic, and their `scorpions' who carried out this massacre as heroes. Today's ceremony should cause us to reflect on Europe's deliberate ignorance during the war in Bosnia, and the perverted mentality of the Serbs, who massacred defenseless young Muslim boys by the thousands."

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